ROGER F. WICKER
MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUITE 555
DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224–6253

www.wicker.senate.gov

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President Donald J. Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

A recent POLITICO investigation shows that the Obama Administration derailed an ambitious Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)-led campaign – codenamed Project Cassandra – that targeted the Islamist terrorist organization Hezbollah. The Obama Administration proved so desperate to secure a nuclear agreement with Hezbollah's patron – Iran – that senior officials rejected repeated requests to investigate, prosecute, arrest, sanction, and seek extradition of numerous Hezbollah operatives and affiliates connected to its billion-dollar global criminal enterprise.

Project Cassandra revealed the extent to which Hezbollah is an international criminal syndicate: The organization is heavily involved in drug and weapons trafficking, money laundering, and other criminal activities. Importantly, the drug trafficking activity reportedly involves the smuggling of tons of cocaine into the United States. One DEA agent involved in Project Cassandra put it best: Hezbollah is the "Gambino crime family on steroids." Project Cassandra agents traced this conspiracy to the innermost circles of Iran, Syria, Venezuela, and other countries. It is worth noting that, under your administration, the Treasury Department designated Venezuela's Vice President, Tarek El Aissami, as a narcotics trafficking kingpin.

The POLITICO report also shows how the proceeds from Hezbollah's criminal enterprise are linked to ongoing efforts to undermine U.S. interests – and even to kill American soldiers. Project Cassandra traced Hezbollah funds to Iran's Explosively Formed Penetrator (EFP) explosives program. Employed by insurgent militias, EFPs have killed around 500 U.S. servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan. A Pentagon official involved in Project Cassandra told Congress that funds generated through Hezbollah's criminal activities represent the "largest material support scheme for terrorist operations" ever seen.

Established in 2008, Project Cassandra eventually developed "virtual omniscience" over Hezbollah's criminal network. To improve relations with Iran, however, senior Obama Administration officials – particularly in the Justice Department – apparently undermined efforts to take down the network. President Obama signed the nuclear agreement in January 2016.

In just your first year in office, you have taken important steps to counter Iran and its Hezbollah proxy. Given the stunning details uncovered by the POLITICO investigation, I urge you take the following actions:

- 1. Resurrect a Project Cassandra-like law enforcement effort to take on Hezbollah and its patrons. This interagency effort must be aggressive, well-resourced, and free from political interference.
- 2. Instruct the Justice Department and Treasury Department to assign dedicated staff to review cases connected with Project Cassandra that were delayed, hindered, or rejected under the previous administration.
- 3. Direct the Intelligence Community, working with interagency partners, to produce an unclassified assessment of Hezbollah's criminal activities (accompanied by a classified annex). The American people and their representatives in Congress deserve a thorough assessment of Hezbollah's criminal enterprise including knowledge of foreign government officials complicit in Hezbollah's conspiracy.

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Thank you for your continued efforts to protect our country.

Sincerely,